

Dear honourable committee,

I am grateful for the opportunity to provide this submission to the inquiry into the online safety bill 2021. I am concerned that the bill, if passed, may have an over-reaching effect that will impact the general Australian public's ability to use the internet free of censorship.

The eSafety Commissioner has publicly argued against encryption for the public, stating that it "will make investigations into online child sexual abuse more difficult" this stance jeopardizes the ability for most Australians to use a safe internet free of censorship.

Encryption provides the Australian public protections against eavesdropping by hackers and threat actors and protects the privacy of journalists, political dissidents, activists, lawyers, reporters, and survivors of abuse.

I believe this bill should be amended to include

An oversight board made up of people in the industries that this bill may impact, including adult entertainers, sex workers, and digital rights activists, with the ability to overturn takedowns or blocks

A sunset clause where we can assess how the bill is being used and address any changes that may need to be made

Transparency so the public know what has been taken down, complaints made, and the reasoning behind it

An appeals process that is fast in case of misuse of takedowns

Explicit assurance that ISP's will not weaken or undermine encryption for Australian internet users to comply with any part of this bill